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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND**CIA Man's Vietnam Role Exposed**

Drew Pearson's column is written today by his associate, Jack Anderson.

BY JACK ANDERSON

The real reason for CIA chief John Richardson's recall from South Vietnam was the shocking discovery that he had been reporting to President Diem's brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, what opponents were saying about the government.

Richardson developed a close relationship with Nhu during Operation Montagnard, a CIA campaign to win over savage mountain tribesmen and turn them against the Communist guerrillas.

Nhu cut red tape and removed obstacles to help the CIA fulfil this and other missions. In turn, Richardson passed on to Nhu information his agents picked up from political opponents of the ruling family.

American Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge was

horrified when he learned of this, and arranged for direct orders from Washington stopping the practice.

Lodge and Richardson still couldn't agree, however, on U.S. policy toward the ruling family. Lodge contended that Diem and Nhu were so unpopular it was hurting the war effort. Richardson insisted there was no alternative but to work with the family.

In the end, Lodge demanded and got Richardson's recall.

Oklahoma football coach Bud Wilkinson has told friends he may toss in the towel as director of the President's Council on Physical Fitness because of a disagreement over extolling ex-President Eisenhower.

The quietly sincere Wilkinson wanted the council to publicize Gen. Eisenhower as an example of a man in his 70's who keeps fit by exercising.

The proposal was taken

up with White House aid Timothy "Ted" Reardon who opposed any publicity campaign that would build up Gen. Eisenhower.

Wilkinson felt this violated a promise that politics would be kept out of the physical fitness program. This is one reason, Wilkinson told friends, that he may quit the Democratic Party and run for the Senate as a Republican.

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Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy placed a Bobby-to-Bobby phone call recently to ousted Senate aide Robert Baker to deny rumors that he was the cause of Baker's troubles. The whispers had it that Kennedy was making Baker the scapegoat in a plot to embarrass his mentor, Vice President Lyndon Johnson. It wasn't true, said Kennedy, that he wanted to force Johnson off the ticket next year.